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| 6   | Attorneys for ROSEMARY TIEDEMAN  |   |  |  |  |
| 7   |  |   |  |  |  |
| 8   | UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT   |   |  |  |  |
| 9   | NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  |   |  |  |  |
| 10  | SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION   |   |  |  |  |
| 11  | In re:   | ) Case No. 19-30088 (DM)  |  |  |  |
| 12  | PG&E CORPORATION   | Chapter 11 (Lead Case)  |  |  |  |
| 13  | -and-  | (Jointly Administered)  |  |  |  |
| 14  | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC<br>COMPANY  | <ul> <li>MOTION PURSUANT TO FEDERAL</li> <li>RULE OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE</li> <li>9006(b)(1) TO DEEM ROSEMARY</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| 15  | Debtors.   | ) TIEDEMAN'S CLAIM TIMELY FILED   |  |  |  |
| 16  | □Affects PG&E Corporation  | ) Date: February 15, 2022   |  |  |  |
| 17  | ☐Affects Pacific Gas & Electric  | Time: 10 a.m. Place: To Be Held Telephonically  |  |  |  |
| 18  | Affects Both Debtors   | United States Bankruptcy Court Courtroom 17   |  |  |  |
| 19  | All papers shall be filed in the Lead Case,  | ) 450 Golden Gate Avenue<br>) 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor  |  |  |  |
| 20  | No.19-30088 (DM)   | San Francisco, CA Judge: Honorable Dennis Montali   |  |  |  |
| 21  |  | Objection Deadline: February 8, 2022  |  |  |  |
| 22  |  |   |  |  |  |
| 23  |  |   |  |  |  |
| 24  | Pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Claimant  |   |  |  |  |
| 25  | Rosemary Tiedeman moves for an order expanding time to file Proof of Claim, and allow, Claim                               |   |  |  |  |
| 26  | Number (not yet assigned), that was filed on January 3, 2022, with Prime Clerk and submitted                               |   |  |  |  |
| 27  | with this motion as "Exhibit A", to be considered timely filed.  |   |  |  |  |
| 28  |  |   |  |  |  |
|     |  |   |  |  |  |

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#### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Under the flexible standard for excusable neglect, Rosemary Tiedeman's claim should be allowed.

Rosemary Tiedeman, due to her mental state and not being present in California, was unaware of the claim process. Under the factors in the United States Supreme Court case of Pioneer Investment Services v. Brunswick Associated Ltd. Partnership 507 U.S. 380 (1993), the circumstances of this case clearly present excusable neglect. In following *Pioneer*, the Ninth Circuit found that even when experienced counsel failed to calendar an appellate deadline with no extraneous circumstances, a finding of excusable neglect was proper. *Pincay v. Andrews* 389 F.3d 853, 859 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004). This case presents no prejudice to the Debtors, no delay to the judicial administration of this case, and is made in good faith. Rather, to deny this claim would work a severe injustice to the Claimant, which must be considered. *Id.* 

II.

#### PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On January 29, 2019, the Debtors, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("Debtors") filed a voluntary Chapter 11 Petition. See Dkt. 1. On July 2, 2019, the Court entered an order establishing October 21, 2019 ("the bar date") as the deadline for Fire Victim claimants to file proofs of claim in this bankruptcy. See Dkt. 2806. That deadline was extended to December 31, 2019("the "extended bar date."). See Dkt. 4872.

III.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Rosemary Tiedeman suffered significant losses to include the loss of her home, all of her personal belongings and emotional distress as a result of the Camp Fire. Rosemary Tiedeman left the state of California in a state of severe psychological condition and never came back. Rosemary Tiedeman was unaware of the claim process until recently. Immediately upon discovering this, she retained counsel and is prepared to file a claim. See Exhibit "A."

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#### **ARGUMENT**

The time in which to make claims in a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy may be extended by motion based on excusable neglect. Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Rule 9006(b)(1) provides:

#### (b) Enlargement.

(1) In general. Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subdivision, when an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified period by these rules or by a notice given thereunder or by order of court, the court for cause shown may at any time in its discretion (1) with or without motion or notice order the period enlarged if the request therefor is made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order or (2) on motion made after the expiration of the specified period permit the act to be done where the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect. Fed R. Bank. Proc. 9006.(b)(1). Emphasis supplied.

Determination of excusable neglect has been interpreted by the United States Supreme Court as an equitable consideration.

"We conclude the determination at bottom an equitable one, taking account of all relevant circumstances surrounding the party's omission. These include . . . the danger of prejudice to the debtor, the length of the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings, the reason for the delay, including whether it was within the reasonable control of the movant, and whether the movant acted in good faith." Pioneer Inv. Servs v. Brunswick Assoc. Ltd.P'ship, 507 U.S. 380, 395 (1993)

Here, there is no danger of prejudice to the Debtors. Where the claim does not disrupt the distribution process, no prejudice will result. In re Sacred Heart Hosp. 186 B.R. 891, 897. ("Exactly how the debtor's assets are distributed is ultimately of little consequence to the debtor, so long as the claim is not filed so late as to disrupt the distribution process.")

Further, the delay is not significant. The Trust has only completed determinations on approximately 38% of all claims. Allowing the late claim will not delay the proceedings. See Declaration of Rosemary Tiedeman.

The reason for the delay in filing a claim was that Rosemary Tiedeman simply was unaware of the process due to her psychological medical condition and not living in California. Excusable neglect will be found even where sophisticated attorneys miss a deadline. ZILOG, Inc. v. Corning (In re ZILOG, Inc. 450 F.3d 996, 1006). The case for excusable neglect is even more compelling when the mistake was made by an unrepresented layperson. *Id.* 

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| 1  | 1 Further, Rosemary Tiedeman acted in g              | Further, Rosemary Tiedeman acted in good faith. Her failure to file was not based on                           |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | 2 litigation tactics where a party deliberately miss | litigation tactics where a party deliberately misses a deadline to gain advantage. Venice Baking               |  |  |
| 3  | 3 Co. v. Sophast Sales &Mkg. LLC 2016 U.S. Dis       | Co. v. Sophast Sales &Mkg. LLC 2016 U.S. Dist LEXIS 141533. (This factor alone weighs                          |  |  |
| 4  | 4 against finding excusable neglect even when th     | e other <i>Pioneer</i> factors are present).   |  |  |
| 5  | 5 And, finally, the likelihood of injustice          | And, finally, the likelihood of injustice is great, if this claim is not permitted. Mrs.                       |  |  |
| 6  | 6 Tiedeman is a Camp Fire victim whose only av       | Tiedeman is a Camp Fire victim whose only avenue for compensation is through this bankruptcy.                  |  |  |
| 7  | 7 This is a factor which was properly considered     | This is a factor which was properly considered by the Court in <i>Pincay</i> , <i>supra</i> , 389 F.3d at 859. |  |  |
| 8  | 8 V.   | V.   |  |  |
| 9  | 9 <u>CONCLU</u>                                      | SION   |  |  |
| 10 | For all of the above reasons, the motion             | For all of the above reasons, the motion should be granted, and Mrs. Tiedeman's claim                          |  |  |
| 11 | should be allowed to be deemed timely.               | should be allowed to be deemed timely.   |  |  |
| 12 | Dated: January 5, 2022. Respectfu                    | lly submitted,   |  |  |
| 13 | THE KAI  | NE LAW FIRM  |  |  |
| 14 | By:  | s/ Bonnie E. Kane  |  |  |
| 15 | BONNIE   | E. KANE<br>for ROSEMARY TIEDEMAN   |  |  |
| 16 | a6   | IOI KOSEWIAKT TIEDEMIAN  |  |  |
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